

Application Serial No. 09/267,176

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated January 25, 2005, Applicants hereby submit that the examiner cited an inappropriate reference, whose filing date is after the priority date of our application thereby making

More particularly, the Examiner cites U.S. Patent. No. 6,047,274 (the '274 patent) in connection with the Section 103 rejections; however, the '274 patent has a priority date of September 24, 1998, while the present application has a priority date of March 13, 1998. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is improper, and that all claims are allowable over the prior art of record.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims 1, 3-9, 11-14, and 18-21 properly set forth that which Applicants regard as their invention and are allowable over the cited prior art.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (602) 382-6325 at the Examiner's convenience, if that would help further prosecution of the subject Application. Applicants authorize and respectfully request that any fees due be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-2814.

This statement does NOT authorize charge of the issue fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 4/23/05

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